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STAY ALERT!

Rogue traders might try and capitalise on storm damage

Cadets raise funds for Soldiers' Charity

• See page 12

LOCAL authorities are warning older and more vulnerable residents to be wary of rogue traders, who are seeking to capitalise on the recent storm damage in Basingstoke.

The worst storm to hit Britain in reportedly over a decade battered the south of England at the weekend, with wind speeds around Basingstoke and north Hampshire reaching 70 miles per hour.

Trading Standards have issued a reminder to the public that some individuals will seek to charge extremely high prices for work.

Alternatively, they might try to convince people work needs doing where it is not necessary.

Hampshire County Council's trading standards team recommend people should obtain three written quotes from reputable businesses or traders before giving the go-ahead for any repair work.

Meanwhile, workers are busy cleaning up the severe damage caused by the gale-force winds and heavy rainfall of the 'St. Jude' storm.

Winds brought down many trees across Basingstoke and Deane and the surrounding areas, and caused some train companies to cancel all services as a pre-meditative measure.

Across the county, highways teams have been dealing with trees which have been uprooted, or branches that have fallen onto the road network as a result of high winds and heavy rain over night.

Over 100 roads were partially or fully closed in Hampshire during the bad weather.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Councillor Seán Woodward, executive member for Economy, Transport and Environment at Hampshire County Council, said: "I have only the highest praise for all our staff and staff from Amey, our contractors, who have been out in terrible conditions to keep Hampshire moving during, and after, one of the worst storms we have seen in a decade.

"It is a timely reminder to the public how crucial local government services are.

"It could take up to three working days to completely clear all the debris and we are asking people to be patient.

"Sudden, very heavy downpours can lead to roads flooding quickly. Do not attempt to use fords and be extra careful driving through any road surface water as it may be difficult to judge its depth.

"Please be patient and considerate to other road users. Spare a thought too for cyclists and any pedestrians walking along the road side, so that they are not showered by puddle water thrown up from the road by moving vehicles. "Be aware too, for the additional hazard of fallen leaves making roads and pavements extra slippery, and also causing drains to become blocked.

"It is also advisable for people to check over their property today to assess any damage, and to check on any vulnerable neighbours and their property, to ensure that everything is in good order."

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Firefighters urge fireworks caution

FIREFIGHTERS are urging people to be extra cautious this Bonfire Night.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Officers are set to strike twice in the next four days - once tomorrow between 6.30pm and 1pm, and once on Monday from 6am to 8am.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) are striking after talks over pay with the government broke down.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue will remain in operation during that time, and will still be answering calls.

However, extra care is being urged to minimise calls during that time.

Assistant chief officer Neil Odin said: "We are prepared for the industrial action.

"We will once again strive to provide a safe level of cover for the county as we did during the previous industrial action, managing to maintain around 50 per cent of the fire appliances that we would normally have available.

"But inevitably there is going to be an impact on our usual response times.

"With the forthcoming celebrations around bonfire night and Diwali, I would urge the public to be especially careful with fireworks and candles to help reduce unnecessary calls."

"There are many well organised firework displays in the county this November. We would recommend attending one instead of a celebration at home."

The main fireworks event in Basingstoke is the Mayor's Firework Fiesta on Wednesday in the War Memorial Park at 7.30pm.

Tickets purchased in advance are cheaper than those on the door.

ACO Odin added: "During the strike periods we are keen to urge everyone to 'take extra care' and do what they can to help prevent fires, and collisions on the road.

"Many fires in the home are caused by everyday activities like cooking and smoking, if consuming alcohol as well then the risk of a fire increases substantially.

"If you are going out this Friday evening for a few drinks, why not pick up a takeaway on your way home instead of cooking, and if you are a smoker always make sure you put it out, right out.

"As the second strike period takes place on Monday morning, we would also like to urge drivers to give the road their full attention and never use a mobile phone whilst driving. We all too often see the devastation of road traffic collisions often caused by distractions."

Travel trade visit set for Basingstoke

BASINGSTOKE and the surrounding areas are set to play a major part in a UK travel trade visit to Hampshire.

The Hampshire Group Travel Showcase, which takes place from Saturday until Monday, will take in the Vyne, Milestones and Basing House.

The group will also be calling into Alton to see the Allen Gallery and local attractions, as well as the Silk Mill in Whitchurch.

The Hampshire Group Travel Showcase has been arranged by Hampshire County Council and Alton-based Steve Reed Tourism Ltd who are a UK group travel specialists.

Hampshire County Council's executive member for Economy, Transport and Environment, Councillor Seán Woodward, said: "The event is the second such familiarisation we have had in Hampshire over the last two years.

"This showcase is targeted mainly at the attractions in the north of the region, previously we had covered destinations and venues further south.

"The event is a great way to generate new bookings of groups of visitors into Hampshire, each coach with their own spending power.

"I would like to thank the attractions and the Hampshire Court Hotel, Basingstoke for helping us to arrange this high quality showcase for our tourism industry."

The tour will also take in attractions in Winchester, Selbourne and Andover.

Images released of supermarket purse theft man

· Have you seen this man?

POLICE have issued CCTV of a man they would like to speak to following the theft of a purse in Basingstoke.

The incident occurred between 10.40am and 11.30am on Saturday, October 19 at Morrisons supermarket on Worting Road.

The victim, a 45-year-old woman, was walking around the store with her handbag in her trolley and noticed that her purse was missing when she went to pay for her shopping.

Police would like to speak to the man in the CCTV. If you recognise him, contact PC Karen Rocks at Basingstoke police station by calling 101.

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Chef to hold book signing session in Hook

CHEF Emma McDonald will be signing copies of her new book at a farm shop near Hook in two weeks' time.

Emma will also be sampling recipes from her book, 'Home Deli Recipes', for people on the day at Newlyns Farm Shop.

She will be at the shop between 11.30am and 3pm on November 16.

"I'm delighted to be visiting Hook and talking to Newlyns' customers about my greatest passion – a love a good food," said Emma.

"After 20 years in the food business, a great wish of mine has been to publish my own cookery book, bringing together a collection of my favourite deli secrets.

"I also hope it inspires everybody to simply have a go at making food they would normally buy, such as sweet chilli jam, date confit or chermoula.

"There are also simple, quick-to-make ideas for weekday suppers, as well as more elaborate, adventurous dishes to try at weekends."

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Shoppers pledge to look at their lifestyles

SHOPPERS at Festival Place have been making a promise to their health over the weekend, as part of BMI Healthcare's Big Health Pledge.

The pledge aims to encourage people across Hampshire and the UK to look at their lifestyle choices and try to make small changes that will help to improve their health.

There are five pledges people made - improve their diet, stop smoking, drink less alcohol, move more and be more health aware.

Bruce Robinson, executive director at BMI Hampshire Clinic, said: "The Big Health Pledge is really about getting people of Basingstoke to think about the small things we can all do to lead a healthier life.

"It was great to be at Festival Place on Saturday to see so many people encouraged to sign up and get involved, more so to get healthier.

"The campaign is also about raising awareness around the UK's top-five preventable causes of death: heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease and liver disease.

"If our message and campaign can help one person here in Basingstoke take some small steps to see big changes, then it will have been very worthwhile."

Around 230 people chose a personal pledge on Saturday, and were provided with a list of manageable steps to follow to help them achieve a healthier lifestyle.

The event at Festival Place was part of a national roadshow that will be visiting a number of different towns and cities across the country.

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Health advice suggested by BMI includes deciding to cycle to work everyday, using the stairs instead of a lift, and monitoring how many steps each person takes during a day.

Anyone who wants to get involved with the Big Health Pledge campaign can go to www.bmibighealthpledge.co.uk.

Alternatively, find more details at www.twitter.com/bmihealthcare, or on Facebook.

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· Members of the Big Health Pledge team from BMI Hampshire Clinic

No council tax rise - county chief

RESIDENTS will not be slapped with a council tax increase as part of local authority's spending reduction policy.

That's the message being conveyed by Hampshire County Council leader, Roy Perry after his cabinet met on Monday to discuss the financial position of the council.

Cllr Perry said the authority has saved £130m over the last three years, and were facing further cuts of £90m.

He added that it was not possible to see how many jobs would be affected by council cuts, but it was "unlikely" to be near the 1,800 figure some have touted.

"It's my intention that we avoid any increase in council tax next year," said Cllr Perry.

"This will mean keeping it at the same level for the fifth year in a row and one of the lowest in the country, despite us receiving one of the lowest grants per head from government.

"We cannot be precise about staff figures until early next year, closer to the budget preparation. A lot of activity is currently being undertaken across the council to find efficiencies through a number of carefully targeted work streams.

"These have been designed to maximise efficiencies and reduce overall levels of cost.

"We plan to stay in business and protect jobs as far as possible to give the best local services to our community, while living within our means."

Celebration toasts a year-long collaboration

A CHARITY and housing association are celebrating a year's collaboration in attempting to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Basingstoke-based housing group Sentinel teamed up with national organisation Victim Support last year.

Sentinel made the move to help customers who are suffering problems with anti-social behaviour.

Dan Gill, Sentinel's ASB officer, said: "We encourage customers affected by ASB to keep reporting incidents, as agencies need evidence to take action. "Victim Support plays a vital role in helping our customers through what can be a very difficult and stressful time.

"We're very pleased with the way our partnership is working and their service has become an important part of the support we provide to our customers."

Bernadette Hanly, ASB project manager at Victim Support, said: "People affected by ASB have a range of needs which can change during the course of the time.

"We provide someone who listens to them and they appreciate the fact that there's someone focusing on them and their perspective on what's happening. If people are unsure we give them information on what we do and time to reflect on it."

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Man held after teen stabbed in the face

A MAN is in custody after being charged with the attempted murder of a teenager in Basingstoke.

The 27-year-old, from Basingstoke, was allegedly involved in an incident with a 19-year-old man in Pinkerton Road near to the Aldworth Science College in South Ham.

The incident took place in the early hours of Saturday morning, sometime between midnight and 12.30am.

The teenager was taken to hospital with serious facial injuries. His condition is described as "stable".

Two other men, a 27-year-old from Basingstoke and a 23-year-old from London, have been released on bail until December pending further police enquiries.

The knife used in the attack has not been recovered.

Police have issued an appeal to the public for anyone who knows about the whereabouts of the weapon, or who has any information with regards to the case, to get in touch.

Detective Inspector Justin Torgout said: "This was a nasty assault which has left a teenager with serious injuries.

"We have been conducting extensive enquiries in the South Ham area, speaking to witnesses and establishing the exact circumstances of what has happened.

"A key part of our enquiries is to find the knife that was used in this incident.

If you are in the Pinkerton Road area, particularly within the area of the playing fields of Aldworth Science College or Bishop Challoner School, and have seen a discarded knife, please call us immediately on 101.

"If you live near these areas, please can you check if anything has been put in your bins and again, if you notice anything, please contact us.

"We've spoken to many people in the area but if you have any information about this incident, please get in touch."

Anyone with any information should contact Basingstoke CID on 101.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on 0800 555 111.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

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Parkinson's awareness event staged in Hook

*** Back (Left to right): Caroline Austin and Adam Wyatt Community staff Nurses from Southern Health Foundation, and Laura Campbell, Care Manager Bluebird Care (Hook) Front (Left to right): Sarah Durban and Kim Teagle Bluebird Care(Hook) and Claire Holt, Parkinson's UK**

A CARE provider has recently hosted an awareness seminar to alert people to the dangers and understanding of Parkinson's disease.

Bluebell Care, which has a centre in Hook, offers palliative care and dementia care, as well as help for people suffering with Parkinson's.

Laura Campbell, care manager of the centre, said: "I am delighted with the turnout.

"We had 25 delegates at this seminar resulting in a cross-section of people attending.

"We had people affected by Parkinson's and their carers, members of the local community nursing team and also Bluebird Care workers.

"The feedback from everyone was very positive. They all said they found the seminar to be very informative."

Bluebell has over 170 offices around the UK.

NHS trust lands prize for leadership

SOUTHERN Health NHS Foundation Trust has scooped the Leadership Innovation category in the inaugural Guardian Healthcare Innovation Awards.

The award was given for Going Viral, the trust's pioneering programme which aims to bring about a cultural shift through leadership development.

Seven awards have been given to a range of organisations, including a school, university and data management company, as well as NHS trusts and the Office of the Chief Scientific Officer.

Over 550 Southern Health leaders have begun or completed Going Viral since it launched in June 2012.

A further 240 began the process in September 2013.

Sue Harriman, Acting Chief Executive of Southern Health, said: "We are delighted to have won this award.

"It serves as well deserved recognition to the team who have managed delivery of the Going Viral programme.

"We believe that supporting people at every level of the organisation to act as leaders is vitally important for creating a strong and inclusive culture that brings about improvements that benefit our patients and service users.

"We want to encourage people to share ideas and best practice, integrate with their colleagues and redesign services."

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Foundation raises £7,500 for youngsters

BASINGSTOKE charity the Life Right Foundation has raised £7,500 to help youngsters who have suffered trauma, neglect or injury.

The charity recently held a fundraising night at the Beechdown Health and Fitness Club in Winchester Road, Basingstoke.

A whole variety of acts and entertainment was put on – everything from a wild-west-themed band and raffle to a human slave auction and a mentalist show.

In total over a dozen children will be helped by the proceeds of this event, making a difference to not just those children, but their families as well.

By **James Booker**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The evening was attended by some of the parents and families of children that have already been helped, urging others to donate, sponsor, get involved or to nominate any child in need.

Sissy Fagan, a mother of one of the children that has benefited from the foundation, said her son now enjoys school, no longer has any stomach pains and sleeps in his own bed with the light off.

"It's not just changed his life but the lives of all of us in the family," she said.

The money raised also marks another milestone for the charity, as it takes it past the £5,000 requirement to become a Registered Charity.

The Life Right Foundation was formed in Basingstoke earlier this year, to compliment an adult research programme they are running, identifying how as adults we are more prone to ill health and disease if we have suffered adversity in our childhood.

Lead researcher Lesley Wickham said: "We are finding a treatment protocol for adults that will help to change lives. Whilst doing this we wanted to start an initiative that looks at the origins of this phenomena and help children before it becomes an issue in adulthood."

The Life Right Foundation is based above Gillies Health Centre in Brighton Hill.

The next fundraising event is a quiz night on November 17 at Basingstoke Rugby Club.

Tickets are £5 and are available from www.theliferightfoundation.org.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

Retailers are set for firework spot checks

TRADING standards workers in Hampshire will be doing spot checks on firework sellers to maximise the safety of residents this Bonfire Night.

The county council will work with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to reduce anti-social behaviour and misuse of fireworks.

There are currently 110 retailers in the county licensed to sell fireworks, and officers will make sure they are being stored safely and only appropriate ones are being sold.

In previous years, officers have found live fireworks to be on display in shops, when only dummy ones should be used in this way.

Another offence was over stocking and incorrect storage methods.

Councillor Roy Perry, leader of Hampshire County Council and executive member for Policy and Resources, said: "At this time of year firework sales greatly increase but by following the Firework Code and advice on the sensible way to buy and use fireworks, accidents can be prevented and everyone can have a good time in safety."

For those planning fireworks parties at home, they are advised to check the Firework Code, available at http://www.saferfireworks.com/firework_code.

Consultations open for Post Office...

• MP Maria Miller

PUBLIC consultations have opened on proposed plans to reinstate a post office in Brighton Hill.

The plans to install a post office local in the premises of the One Stop store in Stanford Road were agreed last month, as reported in the Observer.

Cllr David Eyre, the borough council's ward member for Brighton Hill South, had initially said that initial feedback was so positive, that public consultation might not have been necessary.

However, the step has been taken, and people can give their opinion on the plans on the borough council's website.

The previous post office in Brighton Hill closed down in 2008.

Basingstoke MP Maria Miller has recently welcomed the move to install the post office.

"It is great news that the Post Office is now proposing to restore Post Office services in Brighton Hill," said Ms Miller.

"The Post Office provides a vital community service and the lack of services has been a huge inconvenience for the people of Brighton Hill for a considerable time now."

"The Stanford Road location is at the heart of the local community and has a bus service almost to the door.

"While some people may have preferred a Post Office service restored at Brighton Hill Centre, this proposal seems to present the best possible solution in the circumstances."

First class! Brighton Hill gets post office

By James Booker

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or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

News Bites

Allotment dinner

FUNDRAISERS generated hundreds of pounds for Hook Allotments Association at a special dinner last week.

Members of the association raised £300 at a dinner and raffle at the Gate of India restaurant in London Road, Hook Common.

"The Association needs to raise funds in order to buy the allotment land and events like this, supported by our members, are an excellent way of combining a great social evening with fund-raising," said HAA chair Sue Hinton.

Charity concert

AN EVENING of music is being staged next Saturday (November 9) to raise money for St Michael's Hospice.

The Hurst Singers and Tadley Concert brass band are teaming up for the concert at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall.

The two organisations come together every two years for the cause.

Tickets are £6. The show starts at 7.30pm.

A new deputy

SIMON Hayes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, is set to appoint Rob Jarman as his deputy.

Mr Hayes will be putting this proposal to the Police and Crime Panel for its consideration when they meet tomorrow.

"It is important to me that the office of the PCC delivers the best possible service to the residents of Hampshire and Isle of Wight," said Mr Hayes.

First luxury care home is opened

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

BASINGSTOKE'S first luxury care home was officially opened with a 1940s-themed champagne reception and dance.

The town's Mayor, Councillor Dan Putty, helped guests get 'In The Mood' when he declared Pemberley House on Grove Road open last Wednesday (October 23).

Councillor Putty said he was honoured to be asked to open the home.

He said: "The facilities here are fantastic so I am delighted to officially open the home.

"Older people within our community deserve to live in a place like this where the atmosphere is so warm and welcoming."

The vintage-theme celebrations kicked off with 1940s singer Wendy Evans, and guests enjoyed a champagne reception and tea dance with a 'vintage' DJ set from 86-year-old Syd Wells.

Pemberley House Manager Annie James said: "We are determined to put Pemberley House at the heart of the local community so our residents can continue to enjoy the highest quality of life while they stay with us.

• Cllr Dan Putty cutting the ribbon for the new home

"Our dedicated care team have done a fantastic job creating a wonderful, caring atmosphere in the home and we look forward to meeting more wonderful residents in the coming months and years." The event also raised money for The Bluebells, a purpose-built holiday-home in North Waltham, which provides holidays for seriously ill children and their families free of charge.

The £6million home, run by Gracewell Healthcare, has created 70 new jobs in the town.

The home was named by pupils from nearby St Johns Primary School and marks a step change in the quality of care provided for older people.

Features the new home includes are a luxurious hair and beauty spa, a nail bar, a cafe, a library and will have WiFi access throughout the home.

Man, 29, in hospital after being shot in the buttocks

A MAN was taken to hospital on Friday evening after suffering gunshot wounds to his legs and buttocks.

The 29-year-old arrived at North Hampshire Hospital with the wounds, which police believe were sustained at a house in Bennett Close.

It is believed the man was targeted and there is no wider threat to the public.

His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

Detective Inspector Dave Dilly said: "We are in the early stages of our investigation at this time and the motive for the crime is not known at the moment.

"However the information we have so far shows this was a targeted attack on this man and there is no evidence to suggest a wider risk to the general public.

"Police officers and PCSOs have been working in the area of Bennett Close this evening conducting house to house inquiries.

"We are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area of Bennett Close who heard anything suspicion on Friday evening or anyone who may have information about this incident to please call us."

Call police or Crimestoppers with any information.

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The new Basingstoke showroom is the first to be refurbished under the company's new name. Academy Home Improvements offer a fantastic product range which includes kitchens, bedrooms, conservatories, orangeries, and doors plus double and triple-glazed windows. For more information please visit www.academyhome.co.uk or be one of the first to call into the new showroom.

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News Bites

Money for Life

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller is urging education and training organisations in the area to back national learning campaign Money for Life Challenge.

The challenge is hoping to seek out the most successful and innovative projects that young people can use to improve money management skills.

Teams of up to 10 young people can apply until November 22 for a £500 grant to enter the challenge.

Ms Miller said: "I'd like to see at least one education or community organisation in Basingstoke encourage teams of young people to take part in the challenge."

Revolutionary train in use for first time

A TRAIN capable of replacing 900 yards of railway a night is being used for the first time on a major line from Basingstoke.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Work began replacing 50-year-old track on the Basingstoke to Salisbury line on Monday.

It will continue until December 19, before a break for the Christmas period, and resume from January 6 until 31.

No work will take place on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.

The work, a joint venture by Network Rail and South West Trains, is part of a "major track renewal scheme to improve reliability for passengers".

Jim Morgan, infrastructure director for the South West Trains-Network Rail Alliance, said: "This is a significant improvement scheme that will deliver a more reliable railway for passengers.

"By using the high output track renewal train, we can drastically cut the amount of time needed for the track replacement works.

"At the end of the first week, we expect to have installed around 2000 yards of new track, all with the minimum amount of disruption for passengers.

"To complete this level of track replacement without the use of the machine would normally take two full weekend closures of the line, so this will really help us to deliver a faster and more efficient track renewal scheme.

The Swiss-made train's replacement ability is up to five times as much track that would normally be possible per night.

"This is the first time this equipment has ever been used in this part of the country, and the fact that we've been able to secure such a cutting edge piece of machinery to carry out our track renewals is a positive sign of the success being driven through our joint South West Trains-Network Rail Alliance."

"The work has been carefully planned to minimise disruption to our customers and will therefore take place overnight rather than during the weekends."

There will be some service disruptions while the work goes ahead. Visit www.southwesttrains.co.uk for full details.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

News Bites

Teen in court

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy will appear in court in two weeks' time after being charged with the theft of a musical instrument.

The youngster stole the cornet from a Basingstoke schoolboy last Tuesday (October 22).

The cornet, which has since been recovered, was stolen from the driveway of the victim's house in Winchester Road.

The offender will appear at Basingstoke Youth Court on November 13.

Exposure hunt

POLICE are hunting a man who exposed himself to traffic near Oakley earlier this month.

The man, aged around 18, was seen on the B43000 at Newfound at 2pm on October 4.

He is described as between 5ft 11ins and 6ft 3 ins tall, of medium build and light brown hair.

He was wearing grey jogging bottoms and a blue hooded top. Call PC Andy Reid at Whitchurch Police Station on 101 with information.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**

or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Police release CCTV image of suspected purse robber

POLICE have released a CCTV image as they search for a man wanted in connection of robbing a pensioner's home while she slept.

The 78-year-old victim was taking at nap at her home in Balmoral Court, South Ham when the offender struck.

The victim believes the offender may have got into her house on either August 16 or 17.

Her purse was stolen and the offender has used her card to withdraw £500 from her account by using three different cash machines.

PC Craig Bannerman said: "The CCTV image is from the Shell Garage at Buckskin. Do you recognise this man?

"If you know who he is, please contact me as soon as possible."

A 25-year-old man from Basingstoke was arrested in connection with this incident but was released with no further action.

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News Bites

Man is missing

POLICE are appealing for information to the whereabouts of a Basingstoke man who went missing while fishing on Friday.

Steve Stringer, 62, was last seen on the stretch of the River Kennet, Berkshire at the end of Wigmore Lane at around 5pm.

Mr Stringer is 5ft 11ins, and was last seen wearing the jacket in the picture.

Investigating officer, Detective Inspector Laura Macinnes said: "I would urge anyone who was in the Wigmore Lane area yesterday who may have seen Mr Stringer, or anyone with any information about Mr Stringer's whereabouts to contact Thames Valley Police immediately."

Lottery draw

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the results of their lottery draw from October 25.

First prize of £1,000 went to 87935 of Chineham and 62635 of Overton took second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 went to 17090 of Chineham and fourth prize of £20 is awarded to 79514 of Kingsclere.

Sixteen prizes of £5 went to 02959, 04507, 10846, 18658, 24211, 27350, 27642, 28685, 34603, 38204, 50511, 57633, 74994, 82040, 87793 and 95045.

NHS staff are chosen to be 'Caremakers'

FOUR members of staff from Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been chosen from hundreds of applicants to be made ambassadors for NHS core values.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Nurse Rachel Hayden, based at Basingstoke, Andover and Royal Hampshire County hospitals, is one of the four members of Hampshire staff nominated for the caremaker honour.

The three others chosen are rehabilitation practitioner Paula Stopinski and clinical nursing assistants Stephen Howard and Susan Arnold, all of whom are based at Royal Hampshire County.

Caremakers are tasked with being ambassadors for the 6 Cs: care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment.

A total of 120 caremakers were chosen across the country from over 600 applications.

Ms Stopinski said: "I am honoured to have been chosen as a Caremaker.

"I applied for the Caremaker role because I believe that all members of staff can make a difference to patients by incorporating the 6 Cs into everyday care.

"Bringing these values home to my colleagues not only helps to continue the excellent care we provide for our patients, but also makes us proud and motivated to work here."

Hampshire Hospitals chief executive Mary Edwards said: "We are delighted that four members of our staff have successfully been recognised as Caremakers.

"Patient care is very much at the heart of all we do and we are constantly striving to provide the best possible experience for our patients.

"We could not do so without the dedication and enthusiasm from our fantastic staff."

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of west Berkshire.

The NHS hopes to have appointed 1,000 caremakers by April.

More information on NHS Care Makers and their role can be found at www.nhsemployers.org/caremakers.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

Cadets' 'oarsome' row for Soldiers' Charity

• Members of 3 Platoon Basingstoke cadets at their charity row

A TEAM of teenage cadets in Basingstoke hope to raise £2,000 on the back of a sponsored row last week.

Nineteen 3 Platoon Basingstoke Cadets, aged 12-18, rowed in individual 2,000m stints for 12 hours to raise money for the Soldiers' Charity.

They performed the feat on rowing machines at the Basingstoke TA centre on Penrith Road.

In total, the platoon managed to clock up 149 miles – far surpassing the initial target of 41.

Colour Sergeant Kyle Grimsey, 3 Platoon's Commander, said: "This event has really boosted the moral of the cadets at 3 Platoon, it has helped with our unity as a platoon and we just had a great laugh!

"Every cadet played their part in the collective effort and what an outcome it was.

"Our local ABF (Soldiers' Charity) representative came to visit the Unit and explain about all the great work they do.

"Having discussed it with the cadets we all agreed we just had to get involved.

"It has really incentivised our cadets into giving the row their all and try to raise as much as they can!

"My staff and I are extremely proud of all of them, the amount of effort they have put in which has been nothing short of amazing."

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Install a water softener and banish limescale!

Hard water is something we are all used to in the South, although most of us have got used to putting up with it, many do not realise that you can do something about it. It furs up our heating systems, causing breakdowns, makes it more expensive to heat our homes and damages our appliances.

The other problem with limescale is the constant cleaning of showerheads, shower screens, stainless steel sinks, the whole house can suffer where water is concerned. Limescale aggravates skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis.

With a water softener no limescale will get into the house, which means you will have to do less cleaning, stop buying limescale-related products, cut washing powder use by up to 75% and have less chance of large bills for potential future problems with your heating system and appliance breakdowns. If you were to purchase an ordinary softener you would have quite a large machine, which requires you to set clocks and lug around a 25kg bag of salt. The TwinTec S3 is different. It is small, requires no electricity and uses block salt (like two house bricks) instead of heavy bags.

Harvey Softeners has been manufacturing softeners in this area for more than 30 years. Kevin Goody (UK Water Softeners) is one of Harveys top TwinTec dealers and was voted number two in the country last year.

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Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts.

If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Down the rabbit hole

A BRAND new production telling the magical story of Alice in Wonderland through the use of puppets and a live cast starts its national tour in Basingstoke today.

Performed by Basingstoke-based theatre group Proteus, audiences are invited to go down the rabbit hole for a series of adventures from the classic novel.

Umar Ahmed is the assistant director for the show, and spoke about the puppets that will be used within the production.

He said: "It's very interesting actually, because I'd worked with puppets before, but really small puppets, not big ones.

"What happened this time round is when you see puppets living on stage, you get to see there's a lot of intricacy from the performance side of things.

"When you see the puppets on stage, you tend to forget the puppeteer. It's fascinating because you don't see the person, you see the puppet, and that's magical.

"The whole theme of Alice in Wonderland is quite extravagant, quite mad, and it just feeds off onto the performers and the production."

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Actor Nick Ash is playing the Mad Hatter in the production, and has also spent over 200 hours creating the puppets that will be used in the show.

Joining Nick on stage is regular Proteus actress Becky Kitter, Yanick Ghanty and Charlie Thomas-Chandler, who is playing Alice.

Charlie said: "This experience has opened the door into the industry for me, and my own personal journey is very similar to that of Alice.

"I hope that I can use this amazing opportunity to learn as much as possible from an incredible theatre company."

Tonight's performance starts at 7pm, with productions also taking place tomorrow and Saturday.

For more information, go to www.centralstudio.co.uk or phone 01256 418318.

· The cast have been busy rehearsing ready for today's first showing in Basingstoke

Vintage dance

DOLLY'S Vintage Dance Night returns by popular demand to Old Basing Village Hall on Saturday, with music from Moroccan Roll and Johnny Gunner and the Raiders.

The two bands will be playing a selection of vintage tunes from the 1950s through to today, and the evening is raising money for baby charity Tommy's.

To book, email tickets@dollysvintage.co.uk.

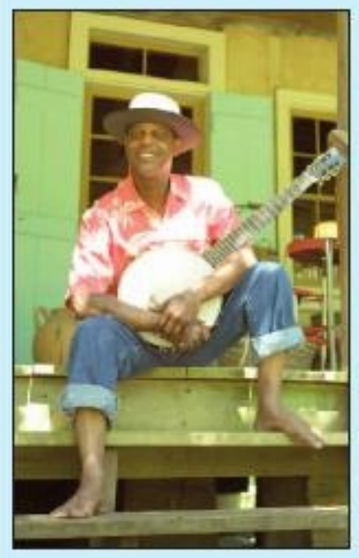
Danny Bryant

DANNY Bryant and his band return to the Basingstoke Blues Club on Saturday night, as he performs with his trademark emotion, intensity, tone and fluidity.

Doors to the Moose Centre open at 7.30pm, and entry is £7 on the door. Go to www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk for more information.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

It's Eric Bibb!



· Eric Bibb is playing at the Anvil

BLUES and roots musician Eric Bibb comes to Basingstoke tomorrow, performing songs from his new album 'Jericho Road' with support from Michael Jerome Brown.

The new album was part of an ambitious project to expand his blues/roots style to include even more world music genres, and also features a cast of old and new friends from across the globe.

The show starts at 7.45pm. Go to www.anvilarts.org.uk for more details.

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Entertainment

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If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Aliens love underpants!

THIEVING aliens from outer space who are coming to Earth and stealing underpants are the subject of a children's theatre production coming to The Haymarket from today until Saturday.

Aliens Love Underpants is based on the best-selling book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort, and is being performed by children's theatre specialists Big Wooden Horse.

It has been touring since July, and according to show director Adam Bampton-Smith, it has proven to be very popular.

"It's going really very well," he said. "It's been really well received, and had some great reviews and feedback.

"It's great because you get the 'official' review of the show from critics, but you also get the public on Facebook and Twitter, and we've had positive responses from parents saying their kids loved the show."

The story largely follows the book, but with the addition of a family and a boy who is accidentally taken into space and transported to the alien's home planet.

"We really liked the book," said Adam. "In theatre production there's always two elements: the story and the design, and both are really important.

"The whole look of the book is really great, colourful, funny and there's a lot of detail in it, so that's something we put into the show.

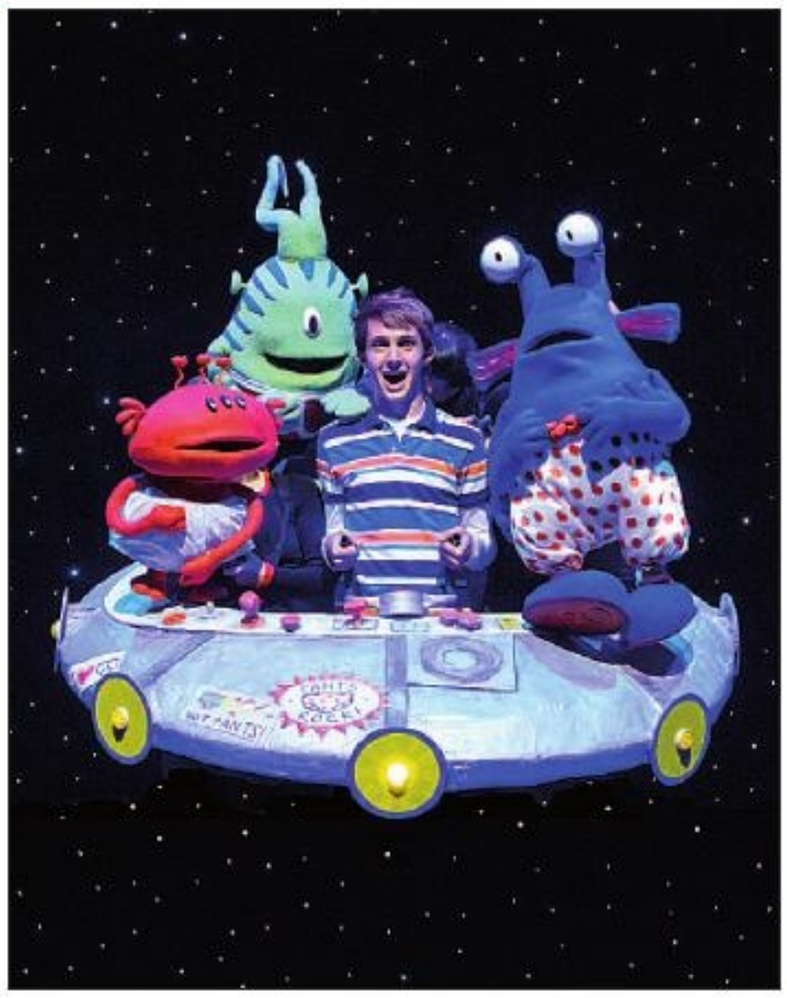
"The book is extremely popular, and that always helps, perhaps because of people knowing about it already."

Thursday's show starts at 2pm, while performances on Friday and Saturday begin at 10.30am and 1.30pm. They last for 50 minutes, and are suitable for children aged three years and up.

Tickets cost £12.

For more information, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



· Aliens are stealing underpants in this hilarious new children's show at The Haymarket from today

Rod Picott

AMERICAN singer-songwriter Rod Picott performs a solo gig at The Forge on Tuesday evening, with a mix of songs, stand up and discussions on a number of subjects.

His composition 'Broke Down' became the most played song on Americana Radio, and also won Song of the Year at the Austin Music Awards.

Tickets for his show cost £14, and starts at 8.15pm. Go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244 for more details.

Fancy a Slice of the Big Apple?

CENTRAL Studio is host to Slice of the Big Apple, a performance from Queen Mary's College first and second-year students completing their Extended Diploma in acting.

This is their first showcase performance, with extracts from contemporary American drama. Tickets cost £4.10 for a 7pm start.

The Hollies are back at the Anvil

RENOWNED pop and rock band The Hollies are at The Anvil on Saturday, for a two-hour show featuring hits such as 'Carrie Anne', 'Just One Look' and 'He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother'.

Made up of Tony Hicks, Peter Howarth, Ray Stiles, Ian Parker, Steve Lauri and Bobby Elliott, The Hollies are considered as influential as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones in shaping music today.

All tickets cost £29, and the show starts at 7.45pm. Call 01256 844244 to book.

Grant Hart is at the Railway

AMERICAN musician Grant Hart, best known as the drummer and co-songwriter for rock and hardcore punk band Hüsker Dü, comes to The Railway, in Winchester, on Saturday.

He has been working as a solo artist in recent years, and this year released his newest album 'The Argument'.

Tickets cost £10 in advance. For more information, call 01962 867795.

Alternatively, go to www.railwaylive.co.uk.

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Entertainment

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31 October - 2 November
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Proteus will once again be bringing their trademark fusion of music, physical theatre, circus and puppetry creating an anarchic, magical and mad-as-a-hatter version of Lewis Carroll's classic tales 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Alice Through The Looking Glass'.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

1 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
ERIC BIBB
An Eric Bibb performance is an enriching experience, both musically and spiritually. Giving his audiences songs from a beautifully realised repertoire of soulful, gospel-infused folk blues, he has no problem melding a traditional rootsyamerican style with a subtle contemporary sensibility.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

2 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
THE HOLLIES
Along with the Beatles and the Stones, this band helped shape the world of pop and rock as we know it today, and recently The Hollies were honoured by the prestigiousamerican Rock n' Roll Hall Of Fame – 'For their Impact on the Evolution, Development, and Perpetuation of Rock n' Roll'.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

2 November, 7:30pm - 11:45pm
Crown Lane, Old Basing
THE ROCKIN' RAZORS
plus Record Hop with DJ Stompin' Steve. Membership Drive, New Members Welcome. £10 on the door.
Steve 07904931161

2 November, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
POSTCARD PRINTMAKING
A creative workshop giving an introduction to collograph printing using collaged materials. You will be shown how to transfer the images into relief and use the textures to enhance the print. £4
01256 478670

2 November, 7:30pm - 10pm
Elizabeth Hall, Hook
BASINGSTOKE SILVER BAND 'A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES'
Hollywood comes to Hook when Basingstoke Silver Band presents 'A Night at the Movies'. The Elizabeth Hall based band, who will be joined by Saxophone Quartet 'Autumn Reeds', will play music from some of Tinsel Town's greatest Blockbusters which will be instantly recognisable even to the most irregular of cinema goers.
www.basingstokesilverband.co.uk

3 November, 12pm - 2pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
MASSAGE FOR WOMEN
Discover how massage can assist women's health and wellbeing by learning simple massage strokes involving the back and neck. £6
01256 478670

5 November, 8:15pm
The Forge
ROD PICOTT
Lauded for his narrative and melodic songwriting, passionate delivery and darkly humorous onstage storytelling, Picott has had his songs covered by Ray Wylie Hubbard, Slaid Cleaves and Fred Eaglesmithamong others. But it's his brilliant stage show and his instant rapport with his audience that sets this Maine wordsmith apart from the rest. Rod's songs tackle important subjects and stand up there with the very best compositions of the past twenty years.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

7 November
Farnham, Maltings
AS YOU LIKE IT
Directed by Douglas Rintoul, this popular favouriteamong William Shakespeare's comedies sees Rosalind, banished from her homeland, journey into the wild depths of the forest to find her exiled father.
01252 745444

7 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bartok's late piano concerto is the most lyrical of his three, with a hymn-like slow movement interrupted by the sounds of the countryside at night, and a vigorous, Hungarian-flavoured finale.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 November, 7:30pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
Come along to play or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers. Bar available. Free parking available.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

8 November, 7:30pm
The Anvil
BILL WYMAN'S RHYTHM KINGS
Rock and roll icon, author, restaurateur, - legendary former Rolling Stones bassist Wyman has seen it all and continues to live life to the full. His musical rebirth as the driving force behind the fabulous Rhythm Kings has taken him back to his musical roots. This set of virtuoso musicians superbly bring back to life the kind of classic rhythm and blues that first inspired Wyman to pick up the guitar as a teenager.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

9 November, 8pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
THE JON WALSH BLUES BAND
Jon Walsh is the singer and lead guitarist in The Jon Walsh Blues Band, which enjoys a reputation as being one of the most talented real blues bands on the UK Blues circuit.

Jon is also an exceptional solo acoustic / slide guitarists and singer.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

9 November, 7:30pm
The Anvil
HA HA HOLMES!
You'd be absolutely barking to miss this pipe-smoking new show from theatre's funniest parodists, as Holmes and Watson embark on their most dangerous adventure yet... hunting down The Hound of the Baskervilles!
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

9 November - 9 November, 10am - 4pm
London St United Reformed Church, London Rd, Basingstoke RG21 7NU
LONDON STREET CRAFT & ART FAIR
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We will also have musical entertainment
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10 November, 5:55pm
Farnham Maltings Association
PUCCINI: TOSCA
The third of The Met: Live in HD broadcasts this season is Luc Bondy's production of Tosca, starring Patricia Racette and Roberto Alagna in the roles of Tosca and her lover Cavaradossi, with George Gagnidze as the corrupt, lustful Scarpia, and John Del Carlo in the role of the Sacristan.
www.farnhammaltings.com

10 November, 7:30pm
The Anvil
THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES
The Bootleg Sixties encapsulates the essence of the sixties in this hit packed, epic two hour show. Pop music's greatest decade is brought back to life back to life with the classic fashion, newsreel and iconic video footage of the period, and including hits made famous by the biggest and best bands from the era.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

11 November, 2pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
A TALK ON THE GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION
Curator Chantal Condron will share intriguing histories and stories of one of the largest, most dispersed collection of British art in the world. £3
01256 478670

12 November, 2pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
A TALK ON WRITING FICTION
Published author Cas Peace will highlight the skills required to develop a believable world in your fiction writing. FREE
01256 478670

13 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
GO WEST, HUE & CRY AND THE CHRISTIANS
Go West, Hue and Cry (who will be performing as an acoustic duo) and special guests The Christians are united on the same bill for the first time ever.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

14 November
The Red Lion, Basingstoke
A NIGHT OF MEDIUMSHIP WITH A DIFFERENCE
Fun, laughter and a roller coaster of emotions.

Tickets £10 + £1 booking fee
07539 557942 www.psychicevents4all.co.uk

15 November
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
JIMMY CRICKET – VALUE FOR A TENNER SHOW
Jimmy Cricket is without doubt a 1980s comedy icon and he's lost none of his talent or energy as he presents a credit crunch busting show crammed with fun and frivolity!
www.centralstudio.co.uk

15 November, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
Central Studio, QMC, Basingstoke
JIMMY CRICKET COMEDY SHOW
Legendary Irish comedian Jimmy Cricket brings his credit crunching family friendly show to Basingstoke, all in support of Help for Heroes, tickets just £10 each
01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk

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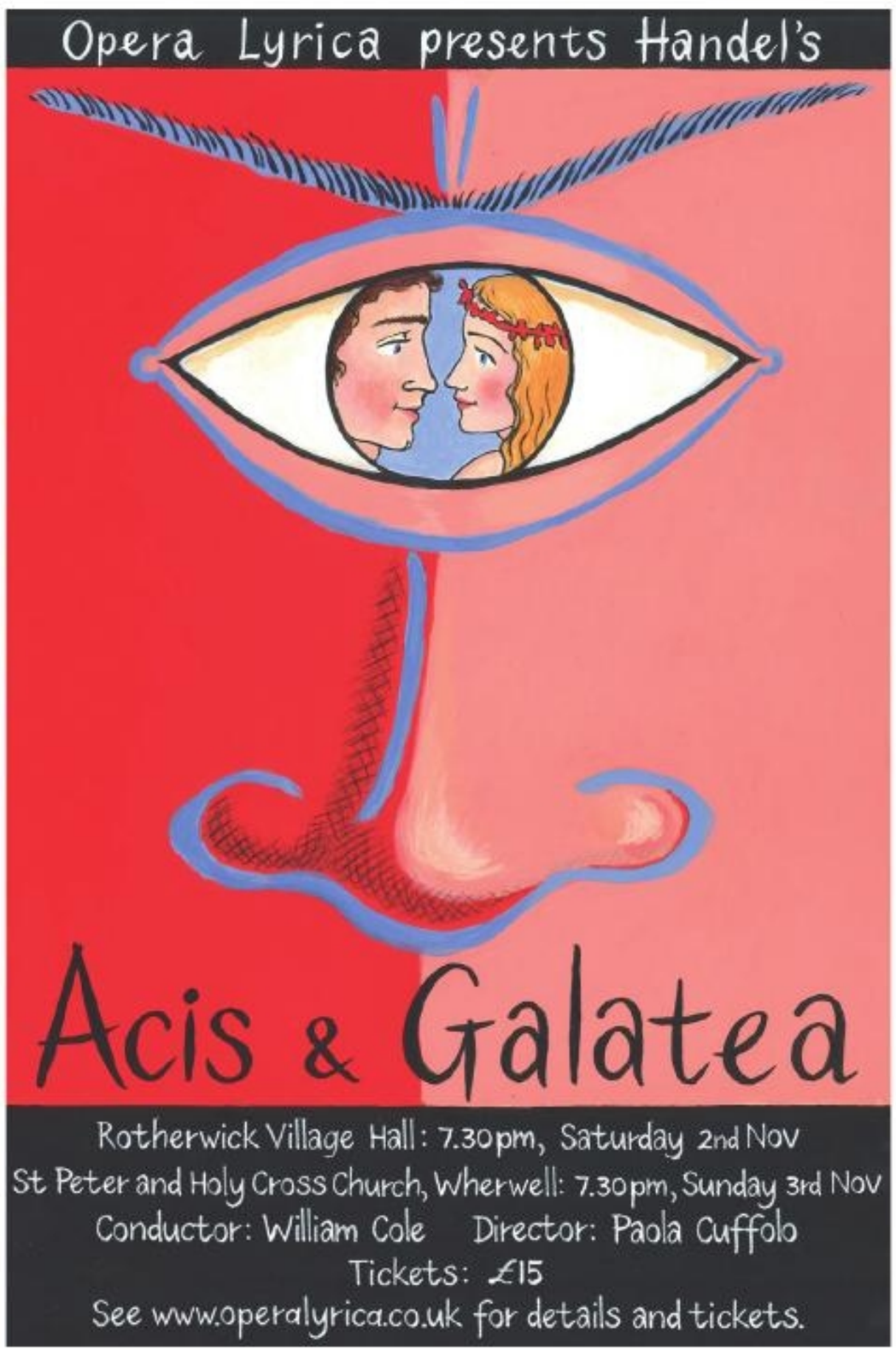
Opera Lyrica presents Handel's
Acis & Galatea
Rotherwick Village Hall: 7.30pm, Saturday 2nd Nov
St Peter and Holy Cross Church, Wherwell: 7.30pm, Sunday 3rd Nov
Conductor: William Cole Director: Paola Cuffolo
Tickets: £15
See www.operalyrica.co.uk for details and tickets.

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The Red Lion, Basingstoke
Thursday 14th November
The Fox, Newfound
Thursday 21st November
Tickets £10 + £1 booking fee
Contact 07539 557942 or visit www.psychicevents4all.co.uk

www.renault.co.uk

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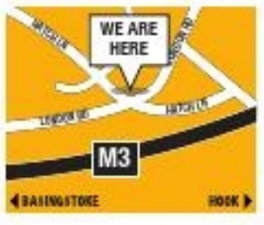

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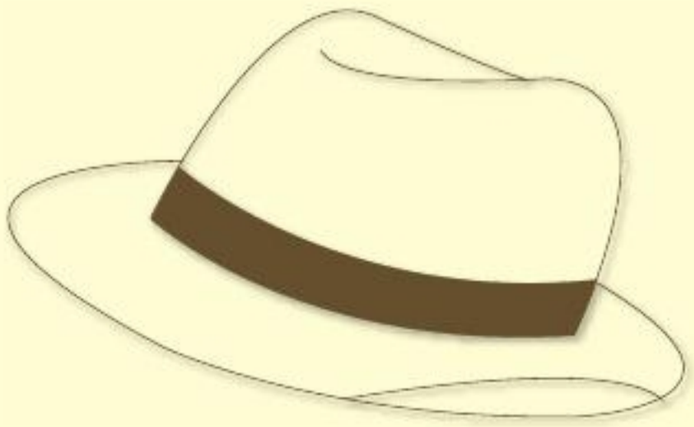

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Tel: 01256 325777
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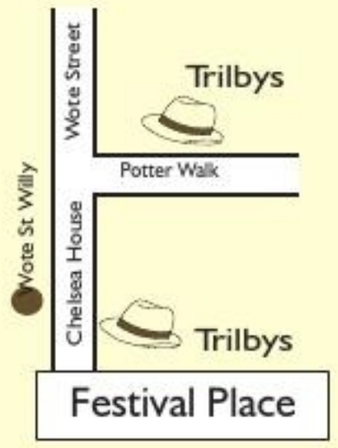
Tel: 01256 364747
2 Potters Walk, Basingstoke Town Centre



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Basingstoke Observer

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From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
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- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Park, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
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Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782, ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability. †Our price includes your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

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Competitions

To enter this competition:

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to **competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, OX11 7HR

WIN Ender's Game goodies!

Closing date: Friday, November 8

THE near future. A hostile alien race have attacked Earth. If not for the legendary heroics of International Fleet Commander Mazer Rackham (Ben Kingsley), all would have been lost. In preparation for the next attack, the highly esteemed Colonel Graff (Harrison Ford) and the International Military are training only the best young minds to find the future Mazer.

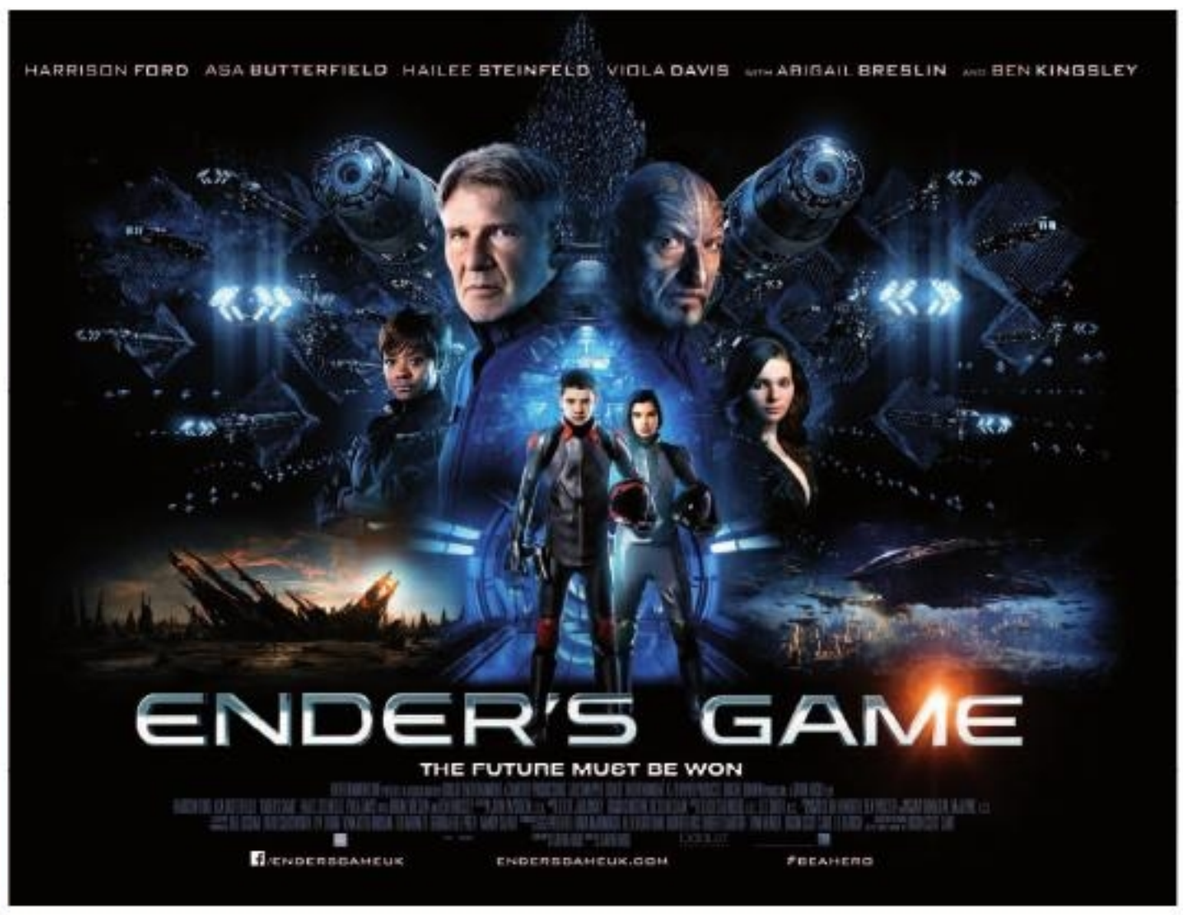
Ender Wiggin (Asa Butterfield), a shy but strategically brilliant boy, is recruited to join the elite. Once there, he's trained by Rackham himself to lead his fellow soldiers into an epic battle that will determine the future of Earth and save the human race.

Ender's Game is an epic adventure based on the best-selling, award winning novel. The movie is written and directed by Academy Award® winner Gavin Hood (X MEN: Origins, TSOTSI).

We have ten goodie packs for you to win. Each contains a woven dragon patch, an iPad case, a military Navy cap, puzzle game and The Enders Game novel,.

To be in with a chance of winning some movie goodies just answer the simple question below.

Q: WHO WROTE THE NOVEL THAT THE ENDER'S GAME MOVIE IS BASED ON?


HARRISON FORD ASA BUTTERFIELD HAILEE STEINFELD VIOLA DAVIS WITH ABIGAIL BRESLIN AND BEN KINGSLEY
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HALLOWEEN

4 KINGDOMS

PREPARE TO BE SPOOKED!

Visit us at 4 Kingdoms this half term with lots to see and do for all the family, we have animal petting, Go Karts, Peddle Karts, Inflatables, Crazy Golf, Mini Village and Indoor Play Barn.

We have plenty of seating both indoors and out and have a Cafe serving hot/cold food and drinks all day.

Prices
Adults: £7.95
Children: £7.95
Under 2`s: Free

During Half Term the Park is staying open later so the Ghosts and ghouls can come out and play

Thursday 31st Oct,
Friday 1st Nov,
Saturday 2nd Nov
10.00am - 8.00pm

Normal opening
10.00am-6:30pm

Halloween activities held at intervals throughout the day Include:-

- Ghost train ride
- Witches Grave yard
- Haunted House story time
- Toddler Ghost walk
- Scarecrow maze
- Walk with the Walking Dead
- Scarecrow making
- Casper Hunt
- Lake monster hunt *
- Pumpkin carving **
- Fancy dress optional

All activities are subject to availability, and weather conditions.

* After dark. ** Small fee.

Santa's Christmas Wonderland at 4 Kingdoms

Santa and his friends will be returning to 4 Kingdoms from the 23rd November, with his magical Christmas Winter Wonderland, Follow the path through the enchanted snowflake forest. Look out and you will see Polar Bears, Penguins and Reindeer hiding and playing in the snow.

Come & Meet Santa

Book Tickets
01635 269678

A Great Family Day out.

Indoor Magical Christmas Scenes
Santa's Grotto
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Go Karts
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Plus Loads More..

Prices
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Children: £7.95
Under 2`s: Free

Open 23rd Nov- 24th Dec
10.00am-6:00pm

www.4-kingdoms.co.uk
4 Kingdoms, Newbury Road, Headley, Hampshire, RG19 8JY

Eat DRINK & be MERRY

The Basingstoke Country Hotel

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It has a peaceful yet convenient location in beautiful undulating countryside, close to the A30 and just 5 minutes from Junction 5 of the M3 motorway.

The hotel's attractive landscaped courtyards offer a delightful backdrop to the rear of the hotel, providing the perfect environment for business and for pleasure. The property is fully air conditioned and it offers free Wi-Fi.

The relaxing facilities of the extensive leisure club are free for you to use during your stay. With the latest equipment and a recently refurbished fully heated swimming pool, the leisure club is a great place to unwind after a hard day's work or long day spent exploring the area.

Why not indulge yourself and book one of the BodySensual beauty treatments? These include a range of massages and holistic treatments. You could also try a full spa day package. Booking in advance for spa days is highly recommended, as availability is limited.

RIGHT: The Courtyard, Naseby Suite and exterior of the Basingstoke Country Hotel.

BASINGSTOKE
COUNTRY HOTEL
HAMPSHIRE

SHAKING THINGS UP THIS FESTIVE SEASON

PUMA HOTELS COLLECTION

Party Nights and Festive Breaks 2013

Abba Tribute Night

You'll have a fantastic night at this ABBA Tribute Party Night and it's fantastic value too! ABBA SENSATION are the UK's premier ABBA Tribute Band, Sensation combine perfect high quality musicianship/harmonies, authentic replica costumes and spectacular costume changes. Combined with exciting choreography, sizzling performances and a sprinkling of lighthearted humour, Sensation produce a dynamic jaw-dropping show with universal appeal. The band even speak Swedish on stage! You are sure to have a FABULOUS evening – please book early to avoid disappointment.

Date: Friday 29th November 2013

Price £35.95 per guest

Michael Bublé Tribute Night

This is a fabulous Christmas party that you do not want to miss! Tuck into a delicious Christmas menu and then sit back and enjoy live entertainment from our fantastic Michael Bublé tribute act who will sing all the Big Band, easy listening, traditional, pop, jazz and blues favourites from the Canadian heart-throb's repertoire. Then dance the night away to our popular resident DJ. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Date: Saturday 30th November 2013

Price £34.95 per guest

It's back to the 70's: Boogie Nights

Get ready... tonight... we're gonna bring you a night to remember... take to the dance floor and enjoy an electrifying night of 70's classic tracks. Fancy dress is entirely up to you, but we recommend it if you really want to get into the party spirit!

Dates: 5 / 6 / 7 / 12 / 13 / 19 / 20 / 21 December 2013

Price: £29.50 per guest

Special Offer
70's Boogie night
21st December
Price reduced to
£19.95 pp.

Disco Party Nights

Let's get ready to boogie... Fabulous food, including half a bottle of wine, Christmas novelties, hats, crackers, the lot! This really is the place to be seen this Christmas, so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.

Dates: 12 / 19 / 20 December 2013

Price: £36.95 icluding a half bottle of red or white wine per guest

Prime Disco Party Nights

Great food, fantastic music, fun novelties... our premium disco night returns by popular demand! We recommend you book early as places are quickly filled.
Start your night in the cocktail bar and ease yourself in before enjoying a mouth-watering three-course dinner with coffee and mince pies, plus half a bottle of wine per person.
Make sure you're wearing your dancing shoes... and let the party begin!

Dates: 6 / 7 / 13 December 2013

Price £45.00 including half a bottle of red or white wine per guest

New Years Eve Dinner Dance Package
£159.95 pp.

Quote BASOB to receive a 20% discount off our New Years Eve Package

Call: 01256 764161

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DE VERE venues

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from £19.95pp

Party with us this season
at Highfield Park

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Get your dancing shoes on

Festive lunches
Keep calm, Brussels sprouts are optional

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Eat DRINK be & MERRY

Choosing the perfect venue...

A couple of months to go sounds a long time. Looked at in detail however it amounts to just eight weeks, and at the end of it is the biggest holiday event of the year.

So to stave off those last minute Christmas rush arounds, and desperate calls to fully booked venues its better to get the ball rolling as early as possible.

November is here and although the sun is occasionally popping up for a cameo appearance getting bookings made for that Christmas bash or hotel stay for any visiting relatives is vitally important to avoid disappointment.

So with deadline time having arrived, what do you do? First off, if you haven't booked yet start looking through these pages and try to get ideas for what you want to do and then get on the phone.

The one booking that all of us seem to get involved in is the Christmas party or the meal out. Whether it is for workmates, family, or friends the basic rules are the same, you have to try to find something that appeals to everyone.

Friends and family should be easy to organize – afterall you have a good idea of everyone's likes and dislikes but the guys and girls you work with can be more of a problem.

Here are a few basic tips:

Where? Well almost certainly, you'll want to find a venue that is near to work so those live a reasonable distance away don't have to shoot home to change before heading back.

Don't forget that many if not all attending will not be driving so it needs to be convenient for taxis, buses or walking. If you're planning on staying in one venue all evening, then it should also be convenient for people getting home later. If the party is going to carry on to other venues afterwards, then you may need to find somewhere centrally located for more bar and club options.

And how big is just right? You'll need a room that can fit in everyone comfortably. Cram them all into a place that's too small and you'll no doubt start to see people leave half-way through the evening. On the other hand, a place too big will see the group start to separate into clicky groups.

Try to check out the venue on a busy weekend night to see how it feels with different groups of people sharing the place.

Food can be a tricky call to make. Some will try anything, some are more set in their ways and probably don't want their first experience of Sushi to be at the Xmas bash. Many restaurants, bars, and pubs have a range of meals outside their speciality, especially at Christmas so get copies of the menus faxed or emailed to you and get them

approved early on by those attending.

Finally and possibly most importantly - price. Whether you're in charge of the money or just booking it for everyone, it's a fair bet that you'll have a set budget for the party. Not everyone has the same amount of money to spend so you will need to find a venue that provides value for money, and try to arrange natural breaks in the evening so anyone who has spent enough doesn't feel they look bad by leaving with everyone else still there.

So there you are- a few reminders of what to look for – but looking at the wide range of venues locally we're sure you'll have no problem in finding the right one for you. As long as you start booking right away – all the good stuff will be vanishing quickly!

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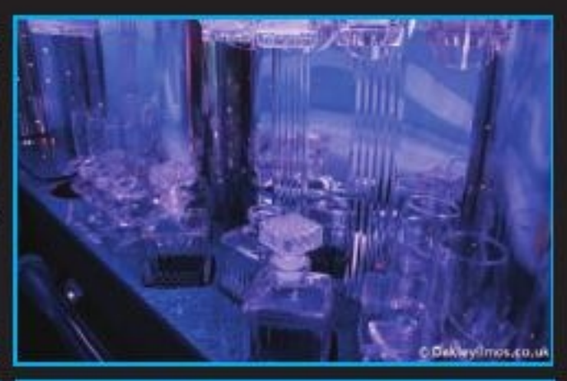

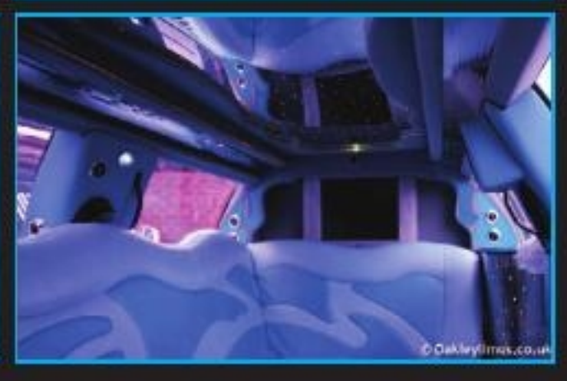

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
5				1			3	
	2	1			8	7		
			2				7	3
		3				1		
9	6				5			
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Superficially emotional (11)
9 Eccentric (3)
10 Instruction (9)
11 Brazilian dance (5)
13 Oozing (7)
14 Whimsical (6)
16 Struggle (6)
18 Tolerates (7)
19 Principle (5)
20 Salt of carbonic acid (9)
21 Sickly pale (3)
22 Searchers for oil or gold (11)

Quick Clues Down

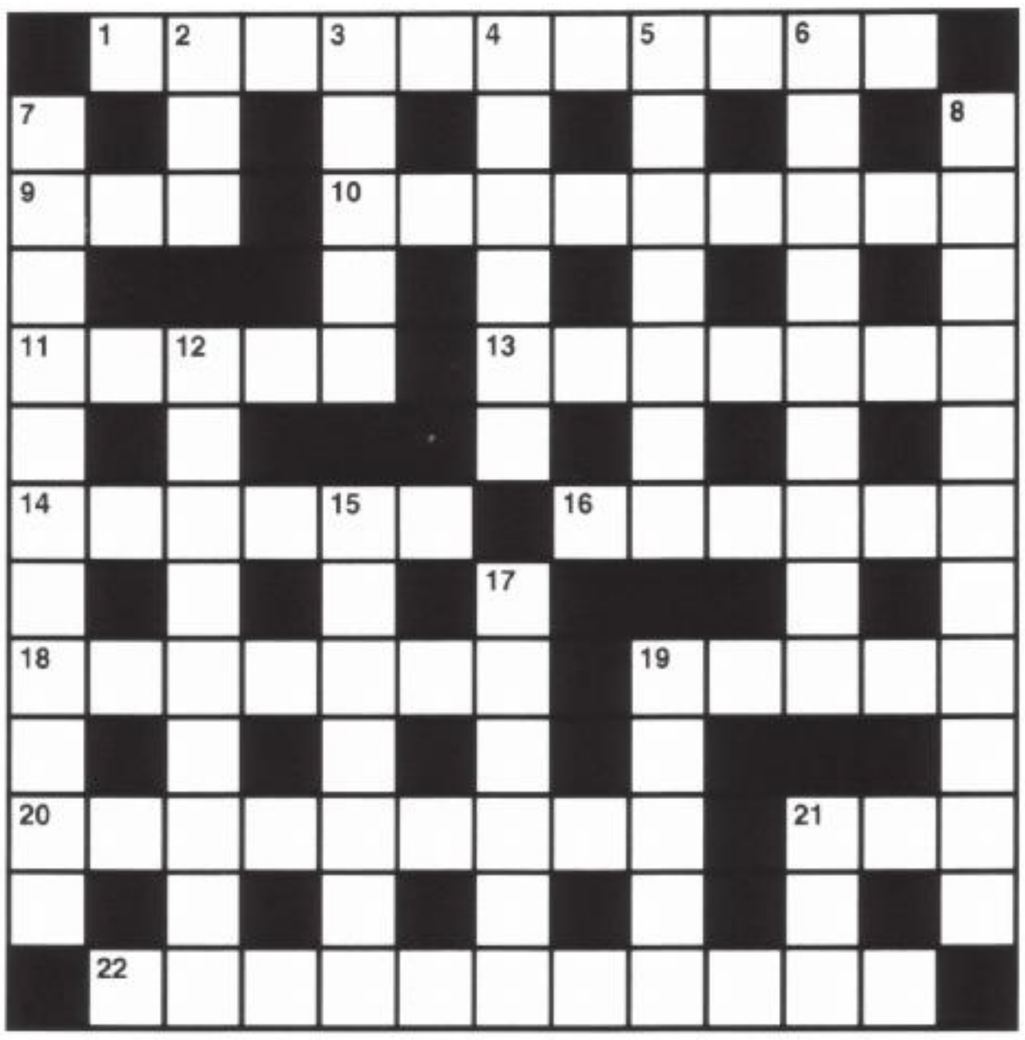
2 Terminate (3)
3 Greek letter (5)
4 Type of dessert (6)
5 Closest (7)
6 Violent motion (9)
7 Effect (11)
8 Exciting curiosity (11)
12 Wanderer (9)
15 Decreases in width (7)
17 Get free (6)
19 Robbery (5)
21 Conflict (3

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Do such people never take a quick look? (4-7)
9 It should look well ahead (3)
10 Shrimps? She'll try to catch her own (9)
11 Places where the collection is brought back (5)
13 The chief one in charge is old-fashioned (7)
14 They just don't have winning ways (6)
16 Struggle to bring the rest round about four (6)
18 Hesitate to speak? (7)
19 If such a cap fits, the dunce should wear it (5)
20 In debt - finished, even? (9)
21 How to find the person (3)
22 This slyness has up-to-date good looks (11)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 You think it's in but it's not (3)
3 They are simply breathtaking (5)
4 Might it get ahead of the polar explorer? (6)
5 Pluto's pet is a real hag (7)
6 No plait, ie the result of a close shave (9)
7 Card game the French prevent in small US town (7,4)
8 Smart little Kenneth gets the company to work (on egg production?) (7,4)
12 It's made by willing people (9)
15 Change can make me older (7)
17 They sound good men in the kitchen (6)
19 A big shot in the church? (5)
21 Is no longer (3)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	9	1	6	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7	6
2	7	6	3	5	4	8	1	9
7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4
6	5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	2

6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	8	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	3
5	2	3	1	8	4	9	7	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	1
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9
7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5	2

6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	2	6
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	2	3	5	1	6	4	8
3	8	1	4	6	7	2	9	5
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	6	9	4	5	8	7	2

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Obsolescent 9 Hub 10 Diligence 11 River 13 Scalene 14 Handle16 Lessee 18 Oarsman 19 Visit 20 Nobleness 21 Pea 22 Gentlemanly
Down: 2 Bob 3 Order 4 Enlist 5 Cognate 6 Nonsenses 7 Church-going 8 Deferential 12 Venerable 15 Lambent 17 Sneeze 19 Vesta 21 Pal

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Springboard 9 Run 10 Spare time 11 Image 3 Nearest 14 Gusset 16 Remain 18 Harpist 19 Avert 20 Militates 21 Too 22 Paper-hanger
Down: 2 Pan 3 Issue 4 Grains 5 Operate 6 Reiterate 7 Crying shame 8 Destination 12 Australia 15 Epistle 17 Stitch 19 Arson 21 Tie

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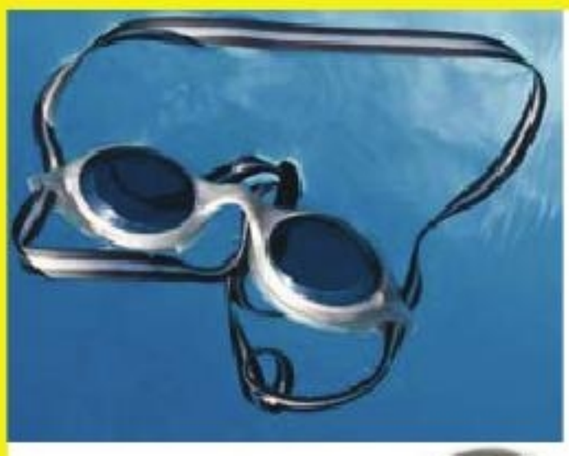

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An impressive first effort

REVIEW: KIA PRO_CEE'D GT

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

KOREAN car maker Kia has finally joined the hot-hatch party with the pro_cee'd GT.

It certainly looks the part, thanks to sporty, individual styling and steeply raked coupe roofline. Other identifying features include: new front grille and lamp clusters, deeper bumpers, jewel-like four-point LED daytime running lights, new fog lights, dual-exhaust pipes, larger 18-inch alloy wheels, eye-catching red brake calipers and a range of special paint finishes.

Powered by a new version of Kia's 1.6-litre GDi (Gasoline Direct Injection) engine and equipped with a twin-scroll turbocharger, results in 201bhp and 265 Nm of torque. Claimed fuel consumption and emissions are 38.2 mpg and 171g/km CO2.

On the road the blown petrol motor offers good drivability and flexibility, but is also capable of packing quite a punch when required: 0-62 takes 7.4 seconds, with a top speed of 143 mph.

Yet this car isn't harsh or a handful to control either,

However, when the right road presents itself the GT is able to entertain. Throw it through a series of twisty bends and the pro_cee'd GT feels fluid, controlled and planted. Admittedly it's not an ultra responsive thrill-ride like the Vauxhall VXR or Focus ST. The steering might not be brimming with feedback, but does feel neutral and linear – allowing quick changes of direction and accurate placement of the car on the road.

Considering the look of the car, front and rear interior space is generous. Driving position is good, too. Annoyingly though, a built-up foot rest means taller drivers are unable to fully extend their left leg. Other gripes include a steering wheel rather cluttered with buttons and a small back window, which restricts rear vision, although front and rear parking sensors are standard.

Along with Bluetooth, iPod Connectivity and rear privacy glass, higher spec GT Tech cars get an engine start/stop button, seven-inch touchscreen with satellite navigation, reversing camera, heated steering wheel and xenon adaptive headlights. Prices start at £19,995 rising to £22,495.

Verdict:

The pro_cee'd GT is a highly impressive first hot-hatch offering from Kia. It's not got the fireworks of more extreme models from Ford and Vauxhall; instead it is more likethe of Volkwagen's Golf GTI: delivering enough performance to entertain, coupled with good refinement and comfort to ensure hassle free, daily usability.

• *Visit your local Kia dealer: Humphris at 72 Rose Hill, Oxford or call 01865 748000*

• *The new Kia pro_cee'd GT*

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GREAT PRICES*

Alto from £6,495
Splash from £7,999
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The streetwise Swift? Or the spacious Splash?
It's a good job they're affordable, because
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NOW OPEN - City Suzuki

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Official fuel consumption figures for the Suzuki Alto, Splash and Swift range in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 60.1 (4.7), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 83.0 (3.4), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 72.4 (3.9). Official CO_2 emissions from 131 g/km to 99 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Alto SZ4 available from £8499. *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £9,899. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £11,616. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2013 and 31st December 2013 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Swift specifications and prices refer to the 2013 facelift model. Model shown: Alto SZ4 (metallic paint available at £399). Model shown: Splash SZ4 (metallic paint available at £415). Model shown: Swift SZ4 5dr (metallic paint available at £430).

Search/SuzukiCarsUK

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Duster Access 4x2=£99 per month*

Duster Ambiance 4x2=£119 per month*

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TOPGEAR MAGAZINE AWARDS 2012 THE DACIA DUSTER

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia Duster range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-49.6 (5.7); Extra Urban 40.3 (7)-61.4 (4.6); Combined 35.3 (8)-56.5 (5). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 185-130g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Rental stated is for Dacia Lease. If you choose Dacia Lease then you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract, you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: Dacia Duster Ambiance dCi 110 4x2, advance rental £4070.49 inc VAT followed by 48 monthly rentals of £119 inc VAT, final rental £3847.18 inc VAT. A finance facility fee of £149 is payable with the advance rental. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Ltd, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. Offer available on new Dacia Duster when ordered and registered before 31 December 2013. †Free servicing available for 3 years/36,000 miles (whichever comes first) on new Dacia Duster Ambiance dCi 110 4x2 and 4x4 and Dacia Duster Laurèate dCi 110 4x2, when purchased through Dacia Lease. Available to retail customers only when ordered and registered by 31 December 2013. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Vehicle must be serviced at an approved Dacia dealer and in line with the manufacturer's service programme. Services must be completed within 1 month or 1,000 miles of the service interval. Excludes any additional work not included within the service programme, such as wear and tear, maintenance and tyres. If the vehicle is sold before the service plan expires, the cover remains with the vehicle and is transferred to the new owner. Available at participating dealers only. Metallic paint available at an additional £495.

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160 Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0HJ Tel: 0843 178 7448
www.city-peugeot.co.uk

The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the 208 range are: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO2 135 – 87.

Representative finance example for Peugeot 208 Active 1.4 VTI 5dr: Cash Price £8695.00, Deposit £169.00, Amount of Credit £8526.00, Credit Fee £175.00, Purchase Fee £175.00, Period 60 Months, First Installment £175.00, 58 Monthly Payments of £169.21, Final Payment £344.21, 7.9% APR. 62 plate with 20k miles limited numbers whilst stocks last. Terms and conditions apply. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE. 0844 Numbers charged at local rate. 53266

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*PCP finance deal based on 6000 miles per annum.

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*PCP finance deal based on 6000 miles per annum.

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www.autoplaza.co.uk

Representative Example for Honda jazz Hatchback 1.4 i-VTEC ES 5dr. Cash Price £11995.00, Deposit/Part Exchange £6000.00, Total Amount of Credit £5995.00, Purchase Fee (included in the payments below) £10.00, Credit Facility Fee (included in the payments below) £340.00, Total Amount Payable £13964.54, Initial Payment £175.00, 58 Monthly Payments £129.06, Final Payment £304.06, Duration of Agreement 60 months, Representative APR 12.3%, Interest Rate (fixed) 9.66%. A guarantor or indemnity may be required. Subject to status. Like for like if you find the same car cheaper within two weeks of purchase we will double the difference. Contact your local dealership for full details. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Where savings are shown, advertised prices are calculated by deducting the customer savings from the List Price. 0844 Numbers charged at local rate. 53232

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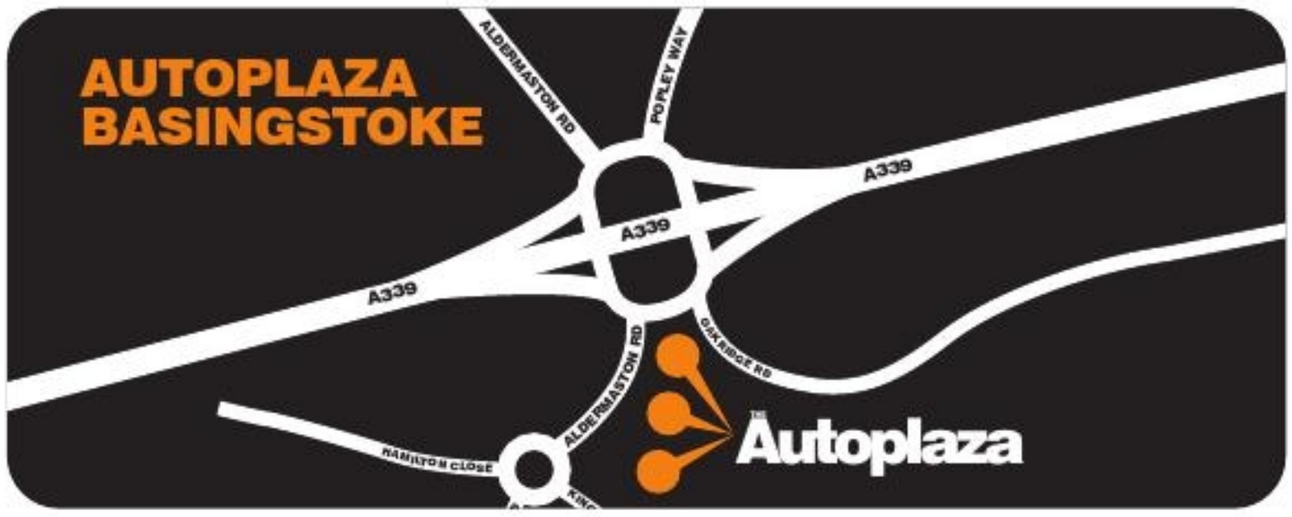

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Representative Example for Honda Jazz Hatchback 1.4 i-VTEC ES 5dr: Cash Price £11995.00, Deposit/Part Exchange £6000.00, Total Amount of Credit £5995.00, Purchase Fee (included in the payments below) £10.00, Credit Facility Fee (included in the payments below) £340.00, Total Amount Payable £13964.54, Initial Payment £175.00, 58 Monthly Payments £129.06, Final Payment £304.06, Duration of Agreement 60 months, Representative APR 12.3%, Interest Rate (fixed) 9.66%. A guarantor or indemnity may be required. Subject to status. Like for like if you find the same car cheaper within two weeks of purchase we will double the difference. Contact your local dealership for full details. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Where savings are shown, advertised prices are calculated by deducting the customer savings from the List Price. 0844 Numbers charged at local rate. 53252

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0843 178 7454

www.gowringsford.co.uk

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Ford Car range: urban 58.9 - 30.4 (4.8-8.9), extra urban 78.5 - 54.3 (3.6-5.2), combined 68.9 - 42.8 (4.1-6.6). Official CO2 emission 107-154g/km.

*Savings shown are against New UK List Price. All prices exclude Road Fund Licence and a First Registration Fee at the current rate where applicable. **Balance of manufacturers warranty where available. A Pre Delivery Fee of £89 (optional) includes HPI Certificate, PDI, Service (if required) and valet. Gowrings Ford will introduce you to a limited number of finance providers that we have carefully selected and we may receive a benefit from them. Specification subject to confirmation on inspection. Vehicles may be moved from site to site at and additional cost. Images are for illustration purposes only. Prices correct at time of press. 0844 numbers charged at local rate. 10.13

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DACIA DUSTER

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KORG electribe esx 1sd, A music production sampler. Red version in very good condition., £200, , 07881 917469

REVOLVING computer chair, revolving computer chair (black), 10, , 7967305362

For Sale

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AL-KO Hitchlock, Caravan hitchlock. Locks whilst towing, £20, 1189814698

ROLLTOP bath, Original rolltop bath (removed during renovation). Rusty but recoverable! Buyer collects., (Reasonable) offers invited., 07770 949945

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SCRABBLE Deluxe complete plus timer, £20, 7899771625

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ROCKING chair, Two rocking chairs, will sell separately, £20 each, 01256 418814

PRAM, Graco Mirage Plus, £40, 01256 418814

KINGSIZE matttress, Sealy Kingsize firm mattress in excellent condition., £20, 07717772095

BOB The Builder Bicycle, Brand New Never been Used Childs Bicycle up to 6 years old Similar to those in Argos of Fireman Sam selling for £90, 40, 07831947754

CAR Seat From Birth, Brand New Never Been Used, £25, 07831947754

COFFEE set, 6 cups and saucers, 6, 07967305362£

DOG lead, Extending dog lead, £8, 07967305362

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HARRY Potter, Harry Potter collecters stamps, £10, 07967305362

MATTRESS, Single 3ft Mattress , £15, 7967305362

DENIM Jacket, Ladies denim jacket, size 12. , £8, 07967305362

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DANCING shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

NEW Dancing shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

SPIDER Plants, 7 spider plants home grown, £1.50 each or two for £2.50, 07967305362

DREAMS Mattress Protector, Two Mattress Protectors brand new still in their wrapping cost £17.99, £8 each, 01256389490

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Rampant Bison score for fun in four-point weekend

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

BASINGSTOKE Bison enjoyed another four-point weekend on Saturday and Sunday, with a 7-5 win over Slough Jets followed by a 5-1 victory against Guildford Flames.

Four goals from Joe Rand on Saturday night helped Bison to victory in an entertaining encounter in Slough.

He got his first after just 18 seconds, before Andy Melachrino added a second within the first two minutes.

Rand then struck again 26 seconds later to make the score 3-0 before the three minute mark, as Bison got off to a dream start.

It didn't take long for Rand to get his hat-trick, which duly came at 13:31 before Doug Sheppard added a powerplay goal just before the end of the first period for Bison to be 5-0 up.

Miroslav Vantroba scored the sixth at 22:19, before the Jets were finally able to respond through Ciaran Long's penalty shot at 33:20.

Darius Pliskauskas netted a powerplay goal at 35:16, before he scored again less than half a minute later, assisted by Long and Dan Davies.

Long then reduced Bison's lead further with another powerplay goal, leaving the score at 6-4 going into the final period.

Both teams scored one more goal each, with Rand getting his fourth at 47:24, before the Jets added a late consolation goal through Mindy Kieras in the final minute of the game.

Sunday's match on home ice against Flames was equally as dominant, although this time it took until the second period for Bison to open the scoring through Joe Greener.

Joe Miller scored the second and third Bison goals, before Markus Kristoffersson was able to pull one back for Flames before the half-hour mark.

But Aaron Connolly restored Bison's three-goal cushion in the dying moments of the second period, firing home through the keeper's legs at 39:49.

Connolly got his second at 48:33, leaving the score at 5-1 at the finish.

The result meant Bison leapfrogged Flames into second in the English Ice Hockey Premier League table, just a single point behind the Manchester Phoenix.

They next play Peterborough Phantoms at home on Saturday, before travelling to face Telford Tigers on Sunday.

Hartley's FA Cup dream is ended by Daventry

HARTLEY Wintney's FA Cup run came to an end on Saturday, as they were beaten 6-1 at home to Southern League Division One Central leaders Daventry Town.

Saturday's match in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup marked the furthest Wintney had ever got in the competition.

A win would have seen them in the first round proper of the cup, with an away tie against League Two's Chesterfield.

The home side had taken the lead early on, as Max Elward fired a long-range shot over the head of Daventry goalkeeper Richard Morris.

But the visitors equalised on 20 minutes, before two more goals meant that Daventry had a 3-1 lead at half-time.

Wintney pushed forward to try and reduce the deficit, but goals from Tom Lorraine, Adam Conflie and Neil King meant the final outcome was a 6-1 defeat.

They returned to league action on Tuesday night playing Chessington and Hook United, but a power cut meant that the match had to be abandoned.

Wintney are now 14th in the Combined Counties League, but have as many as eight games in hand over some teams due to their various cup commitments.

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Sport Bites

Whitchurch win

WHITCHURCH United produced a superb display as they beat league leaders Newport 1-0 at home, and move into ninth in the Wessex League Premier Division.

The Jamboys have won six of their last seven matches in all competitions, and are unbeaten since losing to Sholing on September 21.

Whitchurch were in action away to Hamworthy United last night as the Observer went to press, before hosting Christchurch on Saturday.

Tadley return

TADLEY Calleva return to league duty on Saturday, as they host Amesbury Town in the Wessex League Division One.

Calleva are currently 10th in the table with 11 points, following three wins, two draws and four losses so far this season.

They have lost their last two league games, with a 5-1 defeat away to Team Solent on October 5 followed by a 1-0 loss at home to Andover New Street.

Rose's hope

JUSTIN Rose is hoping to end his strong golf season on a high, as he attempts to win the European Tour's Race to Dubai and replicate his 2007 achievement.

The US Open champion has three tournaments to move up from his current position of third, starting at the HSBC Champions event in Shanghai today.

Swedish golfer Henrik Stenson currently leads the Race to Dubai standings, with Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell in second.

Impressive 'Stoke grab another win

BASINGSTOKE RFC continue to progress up the National League Three London table, with a 40-8 victory at home to Westcombe Park to record their third successive win.

The hosts scored straight from kick-off courtesy of Jobi Kochanowski's try, which was then converted by Adam Davies as Basingstoke got off to a perfect start.

Davies made the most of Basingstoke's early pressure to score two penalties, before Sam Morton was able to add a second try which Davies then converted.

He then scored another penalty just before the break, leading to a convincing 23-0 scoreline after the first 40 minutes.

Westcombe were finally able to respond after half-time, after early pressure on Basingstoke led to the visitors scoring from a penalty.

But Matt Guilfoyle was able to extend Basingstoke's lead once again with a try, before Jamie Fish added another to ensure the bonus point.

The visitors were able to pick up a try towards the end, before Morton got his second of the match to conclude a 40-8 win for Basingstoke.

It means they are now eighth in the league, and play CS Rugby 1863 on Saturday.

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Inside: Rampant Bison score for fun in four-point weekend | Hartley's FA Cup dream is ended by Daventry

A VERY POSITIVE PERFORMANCE

Bristow's men make it two wins from two with away day victory

JASON Bristow praised a very positive performance after his side came away from Dorchester with three well-deserved points.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

A brace from Manny Williams, and goals from Shaun McAuley and substitute Neil Barrett gave the Dragons a resounding win in Dorset.

McAuley struck after three minutes, while Williams netted twice in three minutes later in the first half.

Barrett rounded off an impressive all-round team display by firing home from inside the box with 14 minutes remaining.

"We started the game very well and scored after three minutes," said Bristow. "They had an opportunity a few minutes after we scored, but other than that it was all us in the first half.

"If anything, we should have added more goals than we did.

"It was really pleasing – the most important thing was that we got three points, and it was lovely to get another clean sheet as well.

"It was a very positive day for us."

The Dragons left their hosts bottom of the Skrill South, while they themselves moved up to eighth after recording back-to-back wins for the first time since August.

"In fairness, we were against a side that was low on confidence," added Bristow.

"But I was impressed with the manner in which we started the game, and kept going for 90 minutes even though we were comfortable.

"The result and clean sheet will breathe confidence through the players."

Bristow and his men are back at the Camrose against Dover Athletic on Saturday.

Dover are seventh in the table and boast the meanest defence in the league, having conceded just seven times from 12 games.

They are also riding high on the back of a 3-0 FA Cup success against Oxford City last weekend, and will prove a tough test for the Dragons.

However, Bristow remains confident his team can get the result they want.

"I've said many time that on our day, we're as good a match for anyone," he said.

"It's nice to come off the back of two wins going into the game, but they'll be full of confidence as well.

"They progressed in the FA Cup and are doing well in the league.

"It will be a tough game, but one we are really looking forward to."

Dorchester Town	0
Basingstoke Town	4

· Basingstoke Town celebrate their second goal (Picture by Les Chase)

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